

WHITEWATER
FILMS
PRESENTS

FAT KID

RULES THE WORLD

FEATURING
THE REBELS

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
KITTY KLASH & WRATHSPUTIN

10 SHOWS | OPEN TO ALL AGES
AT THE 12TH STREET THEATER
DOWNTOWN CRESTVIEW

WWW.



EMERGENCY EXIT
EVACUATION FROM INSIDE ONLY



Math sucks!
... is a tool



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INTRODUCTION!

The coming-of-age story is some of the most fertile ground in storytelling. It is a time of firsts: First challenging of authority, first love, and first heartbreak. It's life with the emotional volume cranked up to eleven. When everything seems like life or death. Being sixteen isn't easy for anyone. So, imagine how hard it is for a high school junior who weighs 298-pounds...



⚡ THE WORLD ⚡

Set against the underground punk rock scene of the Pacific Northwest, **FAT KID RULES THE WORLD** explores the unlikely bond, and unlikely band, that is formed when plus-sized loner Troy Billings is saved from suicide by fast-talking grungy outcast Josephina “Jo” Davenport. This story of friendship, family, and rock & roll has already succeeded as a book, as a movie, and as a musical. It grabs your heart and won't let go. Which is why it's the perfect foundation for a half-hour blended family dramedy.

FAT KID RULES THE WORLD



K. L. GOING

JACOB
WYSOCK
MATT
O'LEARY
LILI
SIMMONS
DYLAN
ARNOLD
and
BILLY
CAMPBELL

FAT KID RULES THE WORLD



FAT KID RULES THE WORLD

A BIG NEW MUSICAL

2003

★ K.L. Going's first YA novel, *Fat Kid Rules the World*, is released to critical acclaim, winning the Michael L. Printz Award for literary excellence.

2012

★ Actor/director Matthew Lillard makes his directing debut with a film adaptation starring Billy Campbell and newcomers Jacob Wysocki and Matt O'Leary, winning the Audience Award at SXSW.

2018

★ A musical based on the book is workshopped off Broadway and in Los Angeles with a full production at the Wyatt Theatre in Sacramento.

2022

★ Producers Rick Rosenthal and Nick Morton team with writers Peter Hume and Nate Bartoshuk to develop *Fat Kid Rules the World* for television.

THE STORY

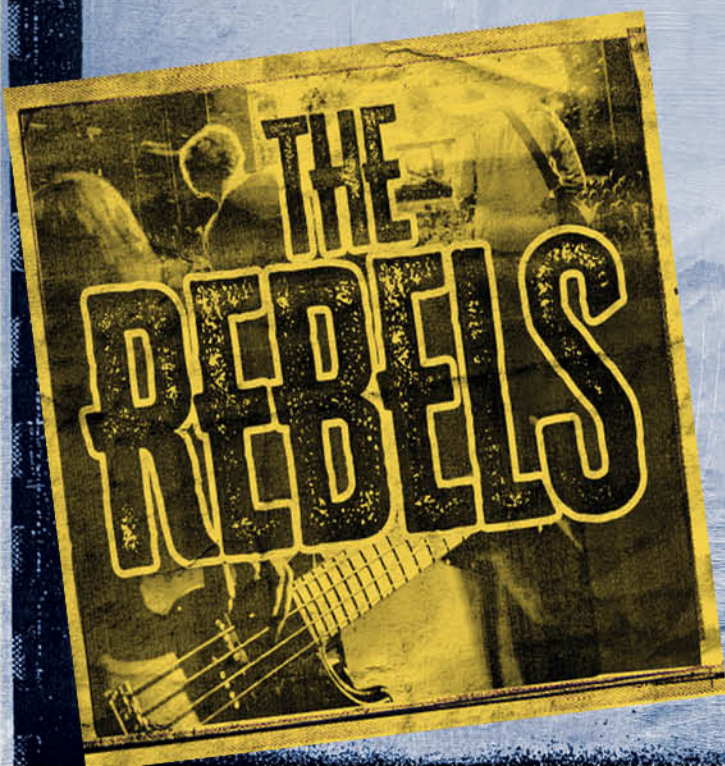
TROY BILLINGS IS A 298-POUND LONER STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE THE BLITZKRIEG OF HIGH SCHOOL.

So far, he's losing the battle. When popular girl Lily takes her life, Troy decides to follow in her footsteps. Luckily, fate intervenes in the form of Jo Davenport, a rebellious rock musician with a troubled family life and secrets of her own. Jo literally crashes into Troy's life, first by

shoving him clear of an oncoming train, then by pushing him to join the punk band she's forming. A precarious friendship is born that soon has Troy grabbing the reins of life and steering towards an exciting - if uncertain - future as the drummer of "The Rebels"



THROUGH HIS MUSICAL JOURNEY WITH JO, TROY WILL GROW FROM A SELF-LOATHING TEENAGER INTO A TALENTED YOUNG MAN LEARNING TO LOVE HIMSELF AGAIN.





THINGS THAT ARE HARD:

- 1) Being fat, not big boned, **FAT!**
- 2) Missing mom, the only person who understood me. Cancer sucks!!
- 3) Crestview High. A.K.A **HELL on EARTH!!!**





WHY NOW?

Twenty percent of American high school students are obese, and over twenty-five percent of them have considered suicide. In fact, suicide is now the second leading cause of death in Americans aged 17 to 24. There are kids like Troy in every school in America, yet we rarely see them on TV. When we do, it's often as the comic relief. It's time for a show that looks at obesity through a lens focused on a complex, multi-dimensional character.



Like the book and film, this is not a story about changing so people will like you; it's about growing so you will learn to like yourself.




THE HEART OF THE SERIES



AT THE HEART OF THE SHOW IS THE UNEASY FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TROY AND JO. THE GLUE THAT HOLDS THEM TOGETHER IS MUSIC.

Jo wants to form a band with the hope of winning a competition at a local radio station. She also hopes to earn the respect of her fading rock-star mom. To do this, she needs a drummer, and Troy is the only one willing to sign on to her dreams.



But Jo has another reason to take Troy under her wing. Lily, Jo's girlfriend, recently took her own life. Jo feels it was her fault, and she's determined not to let that same fate befall Troy.



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There is much struggle and pain in this story, but the heart-break is always balanced with humor and heart. This mix of pathos and humor is what makes **FAT KID RULES THE WORLD** so human and so relatable. It's a funny, moving, and culturally relevant story that deserves to be explored on television.



STYLE

For great examples of the tone of our show? Series like *My So-Called Life* and *This is Us*, and films like *Rocketman*, *Almost Famous*, *Perks of Being a Wallflower* and, of course, *Fat Kid Rules the World*.



Put another way, imagine all the grit and despair of *Euphoria* combined with the heart and hope of *Heartstopper*, then stir in a dash of *Glee*. It's the lowest of lows and the highest of highs one right after the other. That is what it is to grow up. And that is our series **FAT KID RULES THE WORLD**.

CHARACTERS

THE BILLINGS FAMILY



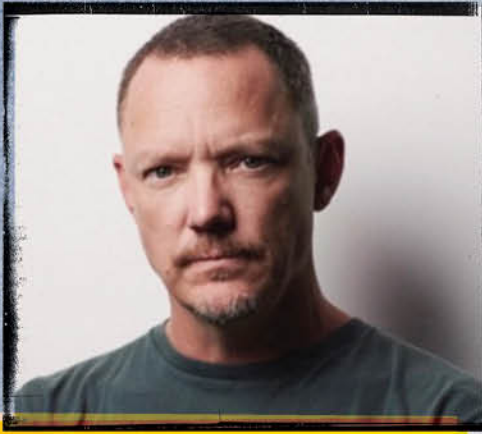
TROY BILLINGS (16)

After losing his mom to cancer, Troy packed on an extra hundred and fifty pounds. His friends from junior high school have abandoned him and he's a target of ridicule. He eats lunch alone (sometimes in a stall in the men's room). He's laughed at in gym. School is so hellish he's considering suicide. To cope, he

gets lost in fantasies he sketches in his journal. He's wildly creative, but he's so beaten down he doesn't dare to dream. All he wants is to survive high school long enough to escape it.

In the first season...

Troy's friendship with Jo will pull him out of his shell and force him to reengage with a world he retreated from after the death of his mom. Empowered by Jo, he'll draw on a well of emotion and begin to write song lyrics that explore adolescent struggle. The songs he writes will garner fans and build his confidence. He'll begin a first romance with Elise. The romance will compromise his friendship with Jo and when it sours, all the confidence he's built will be threatened, just as his talent is starting to shine.



CARL BILLINGS (46)

The patriarch of the Billings family is Carl Billings, a 46-year-old taciturn ex-military man turned-cop. Carl believes all life's problems can be solved with grit and discipline. For him, appearing strong is more important than being strong. He's gutted from the loss of his wife, but he's hidden his struggle from his sons. This has created a wedge between Carl and Troy, who reads his stoicism as indifference to his mother's death. But Carl's steady resolve has been a stabilizing force for Troy's younger brother, Dayle.

In the first season...

Ossified by grief, the arrival of Jo will chip away at Carl's hard exterior and force him to recalibrate what it means to be a

father. As he begins to repair his troubled relationship with Troy, he'll also start to open to the possibility of a fresh romantic relationship.

DAYLE BILLINGS (14)



Dayle is a fourteen-year-old freshman at Troy's school. He's a rising star on the wrestling team,

who, like his dad, is disciplined and driven to win. Younger when his mom died, he's weathered her loss better than Troy. There's tension between Troy and Dayle because Troy thinks their dad likes Dayle more. This has amplified Troy's sense of alienation.

In the first season...

Troy's newfound musical talent and rising social status will threaten Dayle's position of golden boy at home. His anger will culminate in a brutal battle with Troy.

THE DAVENPORT FAMILY



JO DAVENPORT (17)

Jo is a prodigious rocker with a chip on her shoulder and an unsteady moral compass. She's bursting with energy and bad ideas, which she effortlessly sells as good ones. She's a scrappy survivor who has no trouble breaking rules. Despite her hard shell, she's a compassionate person who cares deeply, even if she doesn't show it. Jo's mom (a formerly famous grunge rocker) is struggling with addiction and an abusive partner, and Jo's father is estranged and living

with a new family. To avoid foster care, Jo has been secretly living on the street while attending high school. Jo wants one thing in life: to thrash on a guitar and sing in a band. She's got the talent to succeed, but the bridges she's burned block all the roads to her dreams.

In the first season...

For Jo, what starts as an act of mercy, turns into something more when her friendship with Troy draws her into something she's never experienced: a stable family. But life in the Billings' home offers Jo stability at the price of her freedom. It's a trade she's happy to make if it can help her achieve her dreams. With The Rebels' success, Jo finally earns the respect of her ex-rockstar mother, only to have their connection shattered with an act of violence that could crush Jo's dreams.



NIXI DAVENPORT (51)

Nixi is a washed-up grunge rocker. In the 1990s, she was the lead singer in a two-hit-wonder band. A brilliant guitarist, she had a solid career until booze and toxic relationships sent her spinning. She hasn't toured in years, but she still believes she'll have a comeback. Even though Nixi's been a failure as a mom, she loves her daughter immensely. Jo is both protective of her and desperate for her approval.

In the first season...

Nixi will struggle with addiction and a toxic relationship with a fellow addict. Her love for Jo will be questioned, then demonstrated in an act of love that threatens to destroy her life.



ROMAN (48)

Roman is Nixi's lowlife boyfriend and party buddy. He's manipulative, cruel, and he sees Jo as

a threat to his control over Nixi. When he hits on Jo, she decides to leave home rather than confront her mother about his behavior, which Jo knows he will deny.

In the first season...

Roman will fuck everything up until Carl chases him out of town. Then he'll fuck it all up again until he finally gets what he deserves.



ANTON (51)

Anton is Jo's estranged father. He's an ex-addict who found sobriety and purpose with a new family and a new religion. Faith has given him strength to beat his addiction, but it's driven a wedge between Jo and him.

In the first season...

Anton will try to make Jo move to a new life in Arizona.

THE BAND



MAYA QUO (16)

Maya is the only daughter of a first-generation immigrant family who place high goals for her to achieve. She has a Tiger mom and a meek dad. She's a gifted pianist and the star soloist in the high school band. She's also a gymnast, and on the swim team. Despite being a perfectionist, she knows how to let loose and have fun. She's got a snarky sense of humor and is always ready to party as long as her parents don't catch her.

In the first season...

Maya must satisfy the expectations of her overbearing parents and her demanding music teacher, Mr. Drummond. Her only escape from the pressure is playing with The Rebels. As

the band finds success, Maya will be forced to choose between her parents' dreams and her own.

DEZ LAROUX (17)



Dez is a cocky star football player at Crestview High. He's got swagger, attitude, and plans to make it to the NFL. But under all his bravado he's a softie with a big heart.

In the first season...

Dez's life is turned upside down when an injury puts an end to his football dreams. He finds new purpose and passion as the bass player in The Rebels, along with a growing connection to Jo. Dez will turn against old friends and find new connections in the band, only to have his heart broken when his feelings are unrequited.

SUPPORTING CHARACTERS



ECHO (18)

Echo is the lead singer in Jo's former band, Kitty Klash, and now The Rebels' current arch rival. Like Jo, Echo is hot headed, opinionated and wildly talented. Echo and Jo share a troubled history. When Jo was dating Lily, Echo seduced her, and when Lily discovered Jo's infidelity, she took her life. This tragedy, and the guilt Jo feels because of it, has turned the former lovers into toxic rivals.

In the first season...

Echo will torment Jo at every turn. She will taunt her, seduce her, and challenge everything Jo does



ELISE ORTIZ (16)

Elise is a popular student who makes it a point to be liked by everyone. She's outspoken, confident, and a bit bossy, but with a wicked sense of humor, which she wields as a weapon. A star of the drama club, and active in all aspects of student life. Above average in height and with an outlandish fashion sense, Elise always gets noticed. Especially by Troy, who has had a secret crush on her for years.

In the first season...

When a song Troy writes about Elise goes viral, Elise will end a relationship with Troy's nemesis, Doyce, to try one out with Troy.

SKYE LAYTON (45)



Skye is the high school psychologist. She understands why Troy is so angry and is the first adult Troy opens to about his mom's death.

In the first season...

Skye will provide a sympathetic ear for Troy and become a friend of the family's, and possibly more in a budding connection with Carl.

MARCUS MCCRAY (27)



Marcus is an underground club promoter and local radio station deejay. His illegal club, The Basement is at the center of the Crestview music scene. He's everyone's best friend, but cross him at your peril. Viewers of the movie will recognize him as the mature version of Marcus from the film. He's a decade older and eight years sober. He's the same insane dreamer, but sobriety has given him a foundation he lacked as a younger man.



THE CREATIVE TEAM

RICK ROSENTHAL / PRODUCER

While Rick Rosenthal may be best known for directing **BAD BOYS** - the tough 1983 drama featuring a searing early performance by Sean Penn as a juvenile delinquent - Rosenthal has been involved in television as well, producing two Emmy-winning television series, **LIFE GOES ON** and **TRANSPARENT**.

He has also produced over 30 independent features such as **AFTERNOON DELIGHT**, **MEAN CREEK**, **KING JACK**, **FIRST GIRL I LOVED**, **MATCH**, **WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?** and **CARTEL LAND** and films he's been involved with have premiered at Cannes, Sundance, Toronto, SXSW, Tribeca, Berlin, Deauville and have won numerous awards, including two Indie Spirit Awards, two Crystal Bears, a Humanitas Prize, the Audience Award at SXSW, the Audience Award at Tribeca and a Best Director Award at Sundance as well as an Academy Award nominations for Best Documentary, Short Subject and for Best Feature Documentary.

PETER HUME / WRITER-PRODUCER

Peter is the creator of the Disney series, **STICK WITH ME, KID**, and the Syfy series, **FLASH GORDON**. His **MOW, JACK OF DIAMONDS** was nominated for Gemini Award for best drama in 2012. His pilot, **RIGHTEOUS TEXAS**, was a winner of the 2017 Writers Guild of America, Access Award. Peter's series work includes, **CHARMED** (the CW), **THE INVISIBLE MAN**, **PRIMEVAL** and **THE CHRONICLE** (Syfy). His feature work includes **CRUEL INTENTIONS TWO** and **THE UGLY TRUTH**. In 2020 he served as writer/EP on the Berlin-based thriller, **SPIDES** (NBC/Universal) a top-rated show on Crackle and Sky UK.

NICK MORTON / PRODUCER

Nick Morton is a film producer, screenwriter, and standup comedian living in Los Angeles. Over a twenty-year career he has worked for such well-known companies as Phoenix Pictures, Whitewater Films, Crusader Entertainment, and William Morris. He has been involved in many movies including RAY, SAHARA, FAT KID RULES THE WORLD and AFTERNOON DELIGHT.

He recently wrote the pilot HALFWAY THERE starring Blythe Danner and Matthew Lillard and directed by Rick Rosenthal, which premiered at Sundance, and COOPER'S BAR starring Rhea Seehorn which premiered at SXSW.

NATE BARTOSHUK / WRITER

Nate is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Pepperdine University with a degree in Theatre Arts. His feature film PEOPLE LIVE HERE was a 2021 Nicholl Fellowship Semifinalist. In 2022, Nate was a writer for the Netflix immersive theatre event THE STRANGER THINGS EXPERIENCE.